

D.C. Public Charter Schools

Description	FY 2002 Approved	FY 2003 Proposed	% Change
Operating Budget	\$142,257,101	\$132,865,132	-6.6

The mission of the District of Columbia Public Charter Schools (PCS) is to provide an alternative free education for students who reside in the District of Columbia.

The agency plans to fulfill its mission by achieving the following strategic goals pertaining to public charter schools:

- Abide by the provisions set forth in the individual charters.
- Comply with all reporting requirements set forth by the respective chartering authorities.
- Meet all academic performance goals set forth in the individual charter agreements.

In addition, the agency plans to achieve the following strategic goals pertaining to chartering authorities:

- Monitor and evaluate performance of public charter schools based on the provisions in each school's charter.
- Monitor the financial management of each charter school to ensure that each school appropriately manages its resources.
- Provide students with exposure to career pathways and focus on particular areas of study to enhance students' academic experience.

Did you know...	
New charters approved/granted in FY 2002	5
New charters postponed in FY 2002	1
Charters revoked in FY 2002	1
Public charter schools in FY 2002	36
Public charter schools under the D.C. Board of Education in FY 2002	16
Charter schools under the D.C. Public Charter School Board in FY 2002	20
Students enrolled in charter schools in FY 2002 (audited enrollment)	10,679
Projected number of students enrolled in charter schools in FY 2002	13,600

Where the Money Comes From

Table GC0-1 shows the sources of funding for D.C. Public Charter Schools.

Table GC0-1

FY 2003 Proposed Operating Budget, by Revenue Type

(dollars in thousands)

	Actual FY 2000	Actual FY 2001	Approved FY 2002	Proposed FY 2003	Change From FY 2002
Local	46,480	136,876	142,257	132,865	-9,392
Other	3,455	-8	0	0	0
Gross Funds	49,936	136,867	142,257	132,865	-9,392

How the Money is Allocated

Table GC0-2 shows the FY 2003 proposed budget and FTEs for the agency at the Comptroller Source Group level (Object Class level).

Table GC0-2

FY 2003 Proposed Operating Budget, by Comptroller Source Group

(dollars in thousands)

	Actual FY 2000	Actual FY 2001	Approved FY 2002	Proposed FY 2003	Change from FY 2002
Subsidies and Transfers	49,936	136,867	142,257	132,865	-9,392
<i>Non-personal Services</i>	49,936	136,867	142,257	132,865	-9,392
Total Proposed Operating Budget	49,936	136,867	142,257	132,865	-9,392

Uniform Per Student Funding Formula (UPSFF)

The amount of Local revenues for public charter schools (and public schools) is determined primarily by the District's UPSFF, which is authorized in the District's Uniform Per Student Funding Formula Act and the Federal D.C. School Reform Act. The primary intent of the UPSFF is to ensure that the District's financial resources are distributed equitably among public charter schools and public schools. In accordance with the UPSFF, public charter schools and public schools are funded on a per student basis. The UPSFF provides a minimum or "foundation" amount of funding for each student. Add-on weights also are applied to account for individual student characteristics including grade level, special education, language minority

education, participation in summer school, and enrollment in a residential versus day program.

The FY 2003 proposed UPSFF includes an increase to the foundation level and makes revisions to the weights for grade levels and special education categories. These revisions, proposed by the State Education Office, include an increased per student foundation level. In addition, the proposed UPSFF introduces a special education school weight for students enrolled in schools that exclusively serve students with disabilities. It also includes increases in funding for students in pre-kindergarten through 3rd grade, middle/junior high school students, and senior high school students. Grade level weights for students in grades 4 and 5 decreased. In addition, funding levels for students participating in special education programs were revised. Refer to the UPSFF chart at

the end of the chapter for the proposed UPSFF.

There are two components of the FY 2003 proposed PCS budget: the allocation for the D.C. Public Charter School Board and the individual public charter school's allocations derived in accordance with the UPSFF calculation. Although the D.C. Board of Education receives Local funds to support its duties as a chartering authority, its allocation is included in the D.C. Public Schools budget.

The following is a description of the components of the FY 2003 proposed PCS budget.

D.C. Public Charter School Board Allocation

The FY 2003 proposed allocation for the D.C. Public Charter School Board (PCSB) is \$588,776. These funds support the evaluation, oversight, and technical assistance services provided by PCSB to 21 charter schools that are expected to operate in FY 2003.

Public Charter School Allocations

The FY 2003 total public charter school allocation is \$132,276,356. Proposed allocations to each of the public charter schools are entirely derived through the UPSFF calculation. The aggregate charter school allocation is based on the total projected charter school enrollment of 13,181 students in 36 public charter schools. Each charter school receives funding based on its projected enrollment and the characteristics of the students it plans to enroll. Charter schools' enrollment projections are constrained by their charter ceilings, which are maximum annual enrollment figures established in each school's charter agreement with its respective chartering authority. Charter school allocations can vary tremendously depending primarily on the composition of a school's enrollment. Specifically, significant variation occurs depending on a school's focus on special needs versus general education populations and a school's decision to operate a day school program versus a residential/boarding school program.

Local Funds

The proposed Local budget is \$132,865,132, a decrease of \$9,391,968, or 6.6 percent, from the FY 2002 approved budget of \$142,257,100. The entire budget is funded as a subsidy. Therefore, no FTEs are funded by Local sources for PCS; this remains constant with FY 2002 levels.

Significant changes in the FY 2003 budget are:

- A decrease in projected student enrollment from 13,600 in FY 2002 to 13,181 in FY 2003. This represents a net decrease of 419 in projected student enrollment.
- A decrease due to the negative change in the per pupil facilities allowance for non-residential students from \$1,422 per student in FY 2002 to \$1,237 in FY 2003, a net decrease of \$185.
- A decrease due to the negative change in the per pupil residential facilities allowance from \$3,839 per student in FY 2002 to \$3,340 in FY 2003, a net decrease of \$499.
- An increase of \$2,628,746 for a mayoral enhancement to the UPSFF. The foundation level of funding per student increased from \$5,907 in FY 2002 to a proposed foundation level of \$6,555 in FY 2003.
- An increase of \$108,776 over the PCSB FY 2002 allocation of \$480,000 for a mayoral enhancement to support its increased oversight responsibilities.

Federal Funds

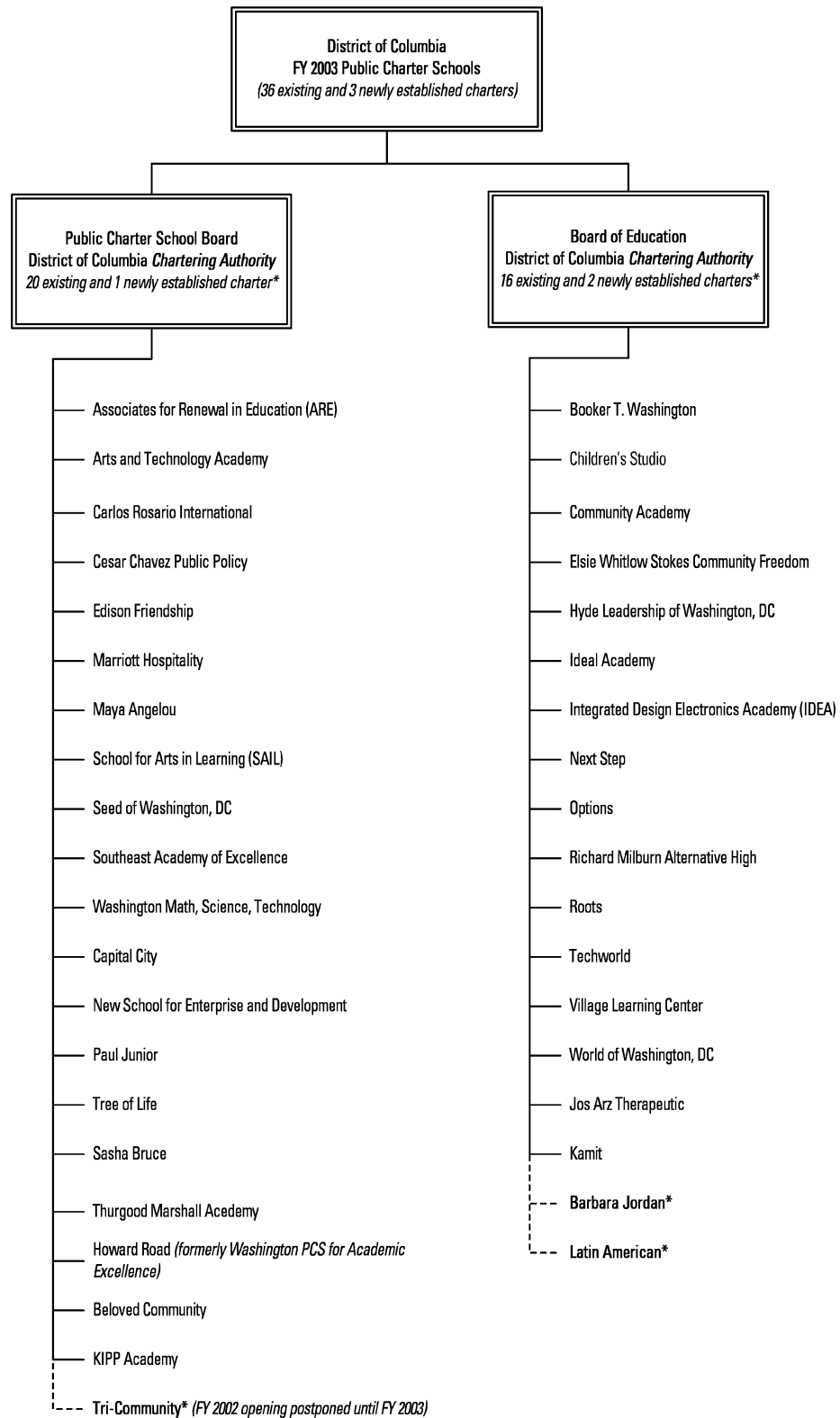
The agency's Federal budget is funded out of the D.C. Public Schools budget. D.C. Public Schools distributes Federal dollars to individual charter schools based on their enrollment.

Private Funds

Individual charter schools receive Private funds from private foundations and non-profit organizations. However, each charter school manages exclusively its Private funds.

Figure GC0-1

D.C. Public Charter Schools



Programs

In short, the aforementioned funding supports PCS in achieving its mission to provide academic programs in individual public charter schools, each of which reports to one of two chartering authorities: the D.C. Board of Education (BOE) and the D.C. Public Charter School Board (PCSB).

Public Charter Schools

Charter schools are established as independent non-profit organizations with individual Boards of Trustees to oversee their management. They are autonomous, nonsectarian institutions that cannot charge tuition to District residents. In addition, no charter school can impose discriminatory admissions policies or tests on District residents. Within authorized limitations, charter schools exercise control over their education programs, instruction methods, expenditures, administration, personnel, contracts for goods and services, leases, and purchases of school facilities. Some charter schools specialize in particular subject areas to help establish career pathways for students. Other charter schools address varied educational needs, including physical, emotional, or learning disabilities, and limited English-language proficiency.

Chartering Authorities

Although they essentially function as independent non-profit organizations, charter schools are accountable to one of two chartering authorities: the D.C. Board of Education and the D.C. Public Charter School Board. Primarily, chartering authorities are solely responsible for approving charters, monitoring charter schools' operations to ensure compliance with applicable laws and terms of their charters, and revoking charters in cases of poor academic performance and/or mismanagement. In addition, chartering authorities provide technical assistance to charter schools to ensure proper management within schools.

Charter Schools Authorized by the District of Columbia Board of Education

BOE, which also governs D.C. Public Schools, currently oversees 16 public charter schools and approved two additional charters for FY 2003 (refer to the organizational chart). According to the preliminary audit results for FY 2002 (school year 2001-2002), the 16 existing public charter schools have a current enrollment of 2,963 students. Of the total FY 2003 projected enrollment of 3,811, existing charter schools project an enrollment of 3,671 students. The remaining student growth of 140 is due to newly established schools. The FY 2003 projections are comprised of the following grade level enrollments: 1,497 elementary, 662 middle/junior high, 1,005 senior high, 382 alternative, 179 special education school attendees, and 86 adult. They also consist of a projected special education enrollment of 351 students and a projected limited or non-English language proficient enrollment of 160 students. In FY 2002, BOE revoked New Vistas Public Charter School's charter. Although BOE voted to revoke the charters of Richard Milburn Public Charter School and World Public Charter School, the schools are challenging the decision.

Charter Schools Authorized by the District of Columbia Public Charter School Board

PCSB currently oversees 20 charter schools and approved one additional charter for FY 2003 (refer to the organizational chart). According to the preliminary audit results for FY 2002 (school year 2001-2002), the 20 currently existing public charter schools have a current enrollment of 7,716 students. Of the total FY 2003 projected enrollment of 9,370, existing charters project an enrollment of 9,126 students and the newly established schools project an enrollment of 244 students. The FY 2003 projections are comprised of the following grade level enrollments: 4,002 elementary, 1,858 middle/junior high, 2,835 senior high, 0 alternative, 0 special education school attendees, and 675 adult. They also consist of a projected special education enrollment of 956 students and a projected limited or non-English language proficient enrollment of 456 students. The D.C. Public Charter School Board has not revoked any of its charters.

District of Columbia Public Charter Schools (GC0)
Proposed Uniform Per Pupil Funding Formula Allocation
FY 2003

Foundation funding per pupil	\$	6,555
Non-residential facilities allotment per pupil	\$	1,237
Residential facilities allotment per pupil	\$	3,340

Grade Level	Weighting	DCPCSB Total Enrollment	BOE Total Enrollment	Total Enrollment	Per Pupil Allocation	Total Dollars
Pre-School	1.17	78	161	239	\$ 7,670	\$ 1,833,067
Pre-K -- K	1.17	844	238	1082	\$ 7,670	\$ 8,298,654
Grades 1-3	1.03	1876	648	2524	\$ 6,752	\$ 17,042,023
Grades 4-5	1.00	1204	391	1595	\$ 6,555	\$ 10,455,751
Ungraded ES	1.03		59	59	\$ 6,752	\$ 398,367
Grades 6 -8	1.03	1858	657	2515	\$ 6,752	\$ 16,981,255
Ungraded MS/ JHS	1.03		5	5	\$ 6,752	\$ 33,760
Grades 9 -12	1.17	2835	949	3784	\$ 7,670	\$ 29,022,281
Ungraded SHS	1.17		56	56	\$ 7,670	\$ 429,505
Alternative	1.30		382	382	\$ 8,522	\$ 3,255,377
Special Ed Schools	1.17		179	179	\$ 7,670	\$ 1,372,883
Adult	0.75	675	86	761	\$ 4,916	\$ 3,741,455
Subtotal General Education		9370	3811	13181		\$ 92,864,378
<u>Special Education</u>						
Level 1	0.55	245	47	292	\$ 3,605	\$ 1,052,786
Level 2	0.85	463	141	604	\$ 5,572	\$ 3,365,506
Level 3	1.50	210	76	286	\$ 9,833	\$ 2,812,237
Level 4	2.70	38	50	88	\$ 17,699	\$ 1,557,546
Subtotal for Special Ed		956	314	1270		\$ 8,788,075
<u>English as a Second Language</u>						
LEP/NEP	0.40	456	160	616	\$ 2,622	\$ 1,615,233
<u>Special Education-Residential</u>						
Level 1 Residential	0.374	4	0	4	\$ 2,452	\$ 9,807
Level 2 Residential	1.360	22	0	22	\$ 8,915	\$ 196,135
Level 3 Residential	2.941	8	0	8	\$ 19,279	\$ 154,234
Level 4 Residential	2.924	0	0	0	\$ 19,168	\$ -
Level 5 Residential	9.40	0	37	37	\$ 61,620	\$ 2,279,944
Subtotal for Special Ed Residential		34	37	71		\$ 2,640,120
<u>English as a Second Language Residential</u>						
LEP/NEP Residential	0.68	1	0	1	\$ 4,458	\$ 4,458
<u>Residential</u>						
Residential	1.70	243	37	280	\$ 11,144	\$ 3,120,337
Summer School	0.17	3204	2495	5699	\$ 1,114	\$ 6,351,000
<u>Facilities Allowance</u>						
Non-Residential Facilities Allotment		9127	3774	12901	\$ 1,237	\$ 15,957,636
Residential Facilities Allotment		243	37	280	\$ 3,340	\$ 935,119
TOTAL FY 2003 PROPOSED UPSFF ALLOCATION						\$ 132,276,356
TOTAL FY 2003 PROPOSED D.C. PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD ALLOCATION						\$ 588,776
TOTAL FY 2003 PROPOSED BUDGET						\$ 132,865,132